GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4106
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2000
MACHINE READABLE PASSPORT
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce machine readable passport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which it will be useful to check forgery; and

(d) the time by which is likely to be introduced in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

a) Yes, sir. Machine written passport.

b&c) A pilot project for introducing machine written and machine `readable` passports has been approved and is being introduced at the RPO, Delhi shortly. The machine written and machine readable passports will have the photograph and the signature of the applicant scanned on to the booklet. This, and other additional security features built into the newly designed passports, will check the instances of tempering of passports including substitution of photographs.

d) The pilot project will run for 3 months at RPO, Delhi following which the results will be evaluated. Depending on the experience of the project, machine writing of passports will be first fully introduced in RPO, Delhi and progressively to other passport offices in the country.